

# **Filtering FAQs**

*Updated 2/24/2012*

## **Idaho Code 33-2741**

### **Do we have to filter for adults?**

Computers that are used by adults (and not by minors) may be filtered, but it is not required. There must be a policy that addresses internet safety.

### **What is my library required to filter?**

Filters must be in place to protect against visual depictions that are child pornography, obscenity, or harmful to minors. Those terms are defined in 33-2741(7). The filters must be in place at computer workstations provided by the library and used by minors.

### **When do we have to do this?**

Policies and filters (where required) must be in place by October 1, 2012.

### **What if we don't have a policy on filtering?**

There are two templates available on <http://libraries.idaho.gov/InternetUsePolicies>. Libraries are encouraged to develop comprehensive policies that meet local needs.

### **When may we disable a filter?**

Filters may be disabled for adults and minors for lawful purposes.

### **Do we have to filter our Wi-Fi when patrons bring in their own laptops?**

No. The legislation applies only to “publicly accessible computers.”

## **Choosing a Filter**

### **Which filter should I choose?**

The filtering tool you choose should meet the needs of your local library. Any tool used by your library should consider the features and functionality needed to fit with your Internet Use Policies and procedures. Consider reviewing the [Filtering Best Practices](#) link provided among the list of resources at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/InternetUsePolicies>.

### **How much will it cost?**

The cost will depend on your needs and on the product you choose. Some potential cost-savings might be found through consortia group purchases, individual vendor discounts and products that can be found at places such as TechSoup (<http://www.techsoup.org/>).

**Who is paying for this?**

The legislation did not provide for a funding source. Purchasing the hardware, software and/or subscriptions will be your library's responsibility.

**What resources are available to decide on a filtering product?**

ICfL has collected a number of sources that review filtering products at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/InternetUsePolicies>. In addition, librarians and trustees are encouraged to utilize LibIdaho or other means to get information from other libraries on their experiences with particular filters.

## **Implementing Filtering Policies**

**What do I do when a patron tells me a site they want to access isn't available with the filter in place?**

Provided the site is used for lawful purposes, you may be able to "whitelist" the site by adjusting your filtering software to allow the site. Talk to your IT support about how to white list sites and about adjusting the filtering levels to lower restriction levels to avoid the unnecessary blocking of sites needed by library patrons. You may also choose to turn off the filter for a patron that needs to access content being blocked by the filter. The option to turn off the filter may be different for CIPA compliance for those libraries that are also e-rate recipients.

**What is a lawful purpose?**

The legislation does not provide for a definition of lawful purpose. As a guide, one might determine that if an activity is not prohibited by an existing law, then that activity could fall with a lawful purpose. Always confirm such things with the Idaho Code and your lawyer.

**What does it mean to whitelist?**

In this application, the term is used to refer to specifically allowing a website to bypass filtering software that might otherwise block it.

**How much content should my filter block?**

The filter settings should reflect your library's Internet Use Policy. It is not necessary to block so much that it inhibits the ability of library patrons to meet their ordinary information needs. Consider unintended consequences when applying your filter settings. For example, blocking all gambling sites may unintentionally block information about the Idaho lottery.